



IFW

BOSE McKINNEY & EVANS LLP

CUSTOMER NUMBER 25267

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PATENT APPLICATION

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Applicants: Metz et al.
Serial No.: 10/801,184
Filed: March 16, 2004
Title: GAP FILLER FOR BED
Atty. Docket: 8266-1278
Group: Unknown
Examiner: Unknown

Certificate Under 37 C.F.R. § 1.8(a)

I hereby certify that this correspondence is being deposited with the United States Postal Service as first class mail in an envelope addressed to the Mail Stop Amendment, Commissioner for Patents, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450.

on July 22, 2004

Signature: *Norman J. Hedges*

Norman J. Hedges

Dated: July 22, 2004

INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT

Commissioner for Patents
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

Dear Sir:

This statement is filed in the application identified above pursuant to 37 CRR §§ 1.56, 1.97 and 1.98. Applicant calls attention to the art references within the knowledge of applicant and its attorney which are listed on the attached PTO Form 1449. No representation is intended that a complete search has been made or that no better art references are available. The filing of this statement shall not be construed to be an admission that the information cited in the statement is, or is considered to be, material to the patentability as defined in 37 CFR 1.56(b).

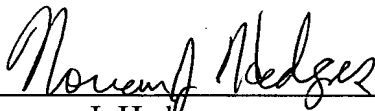
REMARKS

Copies of cited U.S. Patents and U.S. Patent application publications are not provided in accordance to the waiver of the requirements under 37 C.F.R. 1.98(a)(2)(i) as announced in the August 5, 2003 *Official Gazette*. Copies of foreign patent references FR 1 450 817, GB 1 466 080, GB 2 213 303 A, and non-patent reference *Catalog: "A HILL-ROM SOLUTION: MED-SURG BED ACCESSORIES,"* Hill-Rom, 1997, were previously cited to and submitted to the Office in prior application 09/528,372, filed on March 17, 2000, now U.S. Patent No. 6,427,264, which is relied upon for an earlier filing date under 35 U.S.C. § 120. Therefore, copies of these cited patents and publications are not being supplied with this Information Disclosure Statement. Copies of foreign patent references WO 81/01792, EP 0 037 063 A2, NL 8 300 814, GB 2 163 951 A, GB 2 229 407, FR 2 680 955, GB 2 267 430 A, GB 2 284 147 A, WO 98/17153, DE 199 00 602 C, and non-patent reference "*Paramont Bed*" brochure in Japanese, 63 pages, are provided herewith.

None of the art cited on the attached PTO Form 1449 is believed to disclose or suggest the invention recited in the claims of the above-identified application. It is therefore believed that the claimed invention is patentably distinguishable over these references.

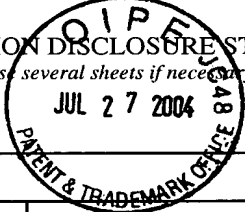
Respectfully submitted,

BOSE McKINNEY & EVANS LLP


Norman J. Hedges

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(317) 684-5000

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| FORM PTO-1449 | | U.S. DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE | | ATTY DOCKET NO. 8266-1278 | | SERIAL NO. 10/801,184 | |
| INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT <i>(Use several sheets if necessary)</i> | | | | APPLICANT Metz et al. | | | |
|  | | | | FILING DATE March 16, 2004 | | GROUP Unknown | |
| U.S. PATENT DOCUMENTS | | | | | | | |
| *EXAMINER INITIAL | AA | DOCUMENT NUMBER | DATE | NAME | CLASS | SUBCLASS | FILING DATE IF APPLICABLE |
| | AA | 421,656 | 2/18/1890 | Blanken, C.H. | | | |
| | AB | 993,119 | 5/23/1911 | Stannard, P.D. | | | |
| | AC | 1,398,203 | 11/22/1921 | Schmidt | | | |
| | AD | 1,682,394 | 8/28/1928 | Meutsch | | | |
| | AE | 1,885,974 | 11/1/1932 | Winn | | | |
| | AF | 2,136,088 | 11/8/1938 | Stevens, R.M. Sr. | | | |
| | AG | 2,164,484 | 7/4/1939 | Wolfe | | | |
| | AH | 2,254,466 | 9/2/1941 | Albert, L. | | | |
| | AI | 2,281,209 | 4/28/1942 | Smith | | | |
| | AJ | 2,452,366 | 10/26/1948 | Freund | | | |
| | AK | 2,556,591 | 6/12/1951 | Loxley | | | |
| FOREIGN PATENT DOCUMENTS | | | | | | | |
| | | DOCUMENT NUMBER | DATE | COUNTRY | CLASS | SUBCLASS | TRANSLATION |
| | | | | | | | YES NO |
| | AL | FR 1 450 817 | Aug. 1966 | France | | | |
| | AM | GB 1 466 080 | Mar. 1977 | UK | | | |
| | AN | WO 81/01792 | 7/9/1981 | WO | | | |
| | AO | EP 0 037 063 A2 | 10/7/1981 | Europe | | | |
| | AP | NL 8 300 814 | 10/1/1984 | Netherlands | | | |
| | AQ | GB 2 163 951 A | 3/12/1986 | UK | | | |
| OTHER REFERENCES <i>(Including Author, Title, Date, Pertinent Pages, Etc.)</i> | | | | | | | |
| | AR | Catalog: "A HILL-ROM SOLUTION: MED-SURG BED ACCESSORIES," Hill-Rom, 1997 | | | | | |
| | AS | "Paramount Bed" brochure in Japanese; 63 pages | | | | | |
| | AT | | | | | | |
| EXAMINER | | | | DATE CONSIDERED | | | |
| <small>*EXAMINER: Initial if reference considered, whether or not citation is in conformance with MPEP 609; Draw line through citation if not in conformance and not considered. Include copy of this form with next communication to applicant.</small> | | | | | | | |

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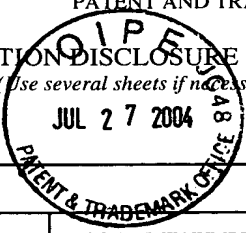
| U.S. PATENT DOCUMENTS | | | | | | | |
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| *EXAMINER INITIAL | | DOCUMENT NUMBER | DATE | NAME | CLASS | SUBCLASS | FILING DATE IF APPLICABLE |
| | BA | 2,564,083 | 8/14/1951 | Stechert | | | |
| | BB | 2,587,291 | 2/26/1952 | Rochers | | | |
| | BC | 2,605,151 | 7/29/1952 | Shampaine | | | |
| | BD | 2,710,976 | 6/21/1955 | Martensen, N.M. | | | |
| | BE | 2,722,017 | 11/1/1955 | Burst et al. | | | |
| | BF | 2,766,463 | 10/16/1956 | Bendersky | | | |
| | BG | 2,817,854 | 12/31/1957 | Pratt | | | |
| | BH | 2,817,855 | 12/31/1957 | Pratt | | | |
| | BI | 2,869,614 | 1/20/1959 | Wamsley | | | |
| | BJ | 2,951,252 | 9/6/1960 | Roche, M.E. | | | |
| | BK | 2,979,738 | 7/2/1958 | Goldberg | | | |

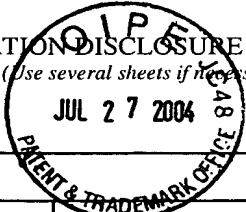
| FOREIGN PATENT DOCUMENTS | | | | | | | | |
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| | | | | | | | YES | NO |
| | BL | GB 2 229 407 | Oct. 1990 | UK | | | | |
| | BM | FR 2 680 955 | 3/12/1993 | France | | | | |
| | BN | GB 2 267 430 A | 8/12/1993 | UK | | | | |
| | BO | GB 2 284 147 A | 5/31/1995 | UK | | | | |
| | BP | GB 2 313 303 A | 11/26/1997 | UK | | | | |
| | BQ | WO 98/17153 | 4/30/1998 | PCT | | | | |

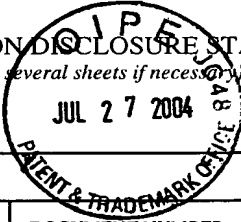
| OTHER REFERENCES <i>(Including Author, Title, Date, Pertinent Pages, Etc.)</i> | | |
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| | BR | |
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| *EXAMINER INITIAL | | DOCUMENT NUMBER | DATE | NAME | CLASS | SUBCLASS | FILING DATE IF APPLICABLE |
| | CA | 3,010,121 | 11/28/1961 | Breach | | | |
| | CB | 3,018,492 | 1/30/1962 | Rosen, N. | | | |
| | CC | 3,021,534 | 2/20/1962 | Hausted | | | |
| | CD | 3,053,568 | 9/11/1962 | Miller | | | |
| | CE | 3,055,020 | 9/25/1962 | Mann | | | |
| | CF | 3,099,440 | 7/30/1963 | Burzlauff | | | |
| | CG | 3,112,500 | 12/3/1963 | MacDonald | | | |
| | CH | 3,138,805 | 6/30/1964 | Piazza | | | |
| | CI | 3,148,387 | 9/15/1964 | Sarnie et al. | | | |
| | CJ | 3,195,151 | 7/20/1965 | Boyer | | | |
| | CK | 3,210,779 | 10/12/1965 | Herbold | | | |
| FOREIGN PATENT DOCUMENTS | | | | | | | |
| | | DOCUMENT NUMBER | DATE | COUNTRY | CLASS | SUBCLASS | TRANSLATION |
| | | | | | | | YES NO |
| | CL | WO 99/15126 | 4/1/1999 | WO | | | |
| | CM | DE 199 00 602 C | 7/13/2000 | Germany | | | |
| | CN | | | | | | |
| | CO | | | | | | |
| | CP | | | | | | |
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| OTHER REFERENCES (Including Author, Title, Date, Pertinent Pages, Etc.) | | | | | | | |
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| | DA | 3,220,021 | 11/30/1965 | Nelson | | | |
| | DB | 3,220,022 | 11/30/1965 | Nelson | | | |
| | DC | 3,233,255 | 2/8/1966 | Propst | | | |
| | DD | 3,239,853 | 3/15/1966 | MacDonald | | | |
| | DE | 3,249,387 | 5/3/1966 | Pivacek | | | |
| | DF | 3,256,533 | 6/21/1966 | Michelsen | | | |
| | DG | 3,262,133 | 7/26/1966 | Beitzel | | | |
| | DH | 3,266,545 | 8/16/1966 | Kruissink, J.W. | | | |
| | DI | 3,309,717 | 3/21/1967 | Black | | | |
| | DJ | 3,321,779 | 5/30/1967 | Kaufman et al. | | | |
| | DK | 3,344,445 | 10/3/1967 | Crawford | | | |
| FOREIGN PATENT DOCUMENTS | | | | | | | |
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| | EA | 3,351,962 | 11/14/1967 | Dodrill et al. | | | |
| | EB | 3,384,147 | 5/31/1995 | Ferris | | | |
| | EC | 3,406,772 | 10/22/1968 | Ahrent et al. | | | |
| | ED | 3,456,269 | 7/22/1969 | Goodman | | | |
| | EE | 3,486,176 | 12/30/1969 | Murcott | | | |
| | EF | 3,585,659 | 6/22/1971 | Burst et al. | | | |
| | EG | 3,593,350 | 7/20/1971 | Knight et. al. | | | |
| | EH | 3,610,685 | 10/5/1971 | Lay, Ralph B. | | | |
| | EI | 3,614,795 | 10/26/1971 | Agnew | | | |
| | EJ | 3,619,824 | 11/16/1971 | Doyle, M.J. | | | |
| | EK | 3,624,847 | 12/7/1971 | Murcott et al. | | | |
| FOREIGN PATENT DOCUMENTS | | | | | | | |
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| | EL | | | | | | |
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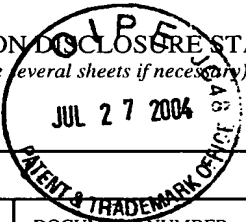
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| FA | 3,640,566 | 2/8/1972 | Hodge | | | | |
| FB | 3,735,432 | 5/29/1973 | Kreten et al. | | | | |
| FC | 3,742,530 | 7/3/1973 | Clark | | | | |
| FD | 3,823,428 | 7/16/1974 | Whyte | | | | |
| FE | 3,845,511 | 11/5/1974 | Benoit et al. | | | | |
| FF | 3,851,345 | 12/3/1974 | Benoit et al. | | | | |
| FG | 3,865,434 | 2/11/1975 | Sully | | | | |
| FH | 3,877,090 | 4/15/1975 | Schutz | | | | |
| FI | 3,893,197 | 7/8/1975 | Ricke | | | | |
| FJ | 3,897,973 | 8/5/1975 | Long et al. | | | | |
| FK | 3,905,591 | 9/16/1975 | Schorr et. al. | | | | |

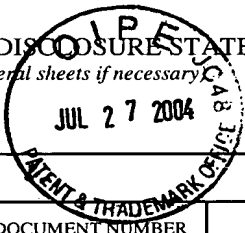
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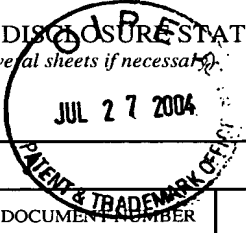
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| | GA | 3,916,461 | 11/4/1975 | Kerstholt | | | |
| | GB | 3,932,903 | 1/20/1976 | Adams et al. | | | |
| | GC | 3,971,083 | 7/27/1976 | Peterson | | | |
| | GD | 4,106,138 | 8/15/1978 | Murphy | | | |
| | GE | 4,127,906 | 12/5/1978 | Zur | | | |
| | GF | 4,139,917 | 2/20/1979 | Fenwick | | | |
| | GG | 4,168,099 | 9/18/1979 | Jacobs et al. | | | |
| | GH | 4,183,015 | 1/8/1980 | Drew et al. | | | |
| | GI | 4,186,456 | 2/5/1980 | Huempfer | | | |
| | GJ | 4,214,326 | 7/29/1980 | Spann | | | |
| | GK | 4,215,446 | 8/5/1980 | Mahoney | | | |
| FOREIGN PATENT DOCUMENTS | | | | | | | |
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| | HA | 4,232,415 | 11/11/1980 | Webber | | | |
| | HB | 4,240,169 | 12/23/1980 | Roos | | | |
| | HC | 4,258,445 | 3/31/1981 | Zur | | | |
| | HD | 4,312,500 | 1/26/1982 | Janssen | | | |
| | HE | 4,336,621 | 6/29/1982 | Schwartz et al. | | | |
| | HF | 4,370,765 | 2/1/1983 | Webber | | | |
| | HG | 4,409,695 | 10/18/1983 | Johnston et al. | | | |
| | HH | 4,439,880 | 4/3/1984 | Kocelik et al. | | | |
| | HI | 4,453,732 | 6/12/1984 | Assanah et al. | | | |
| | HJ | 4,484,367 | 11/27/1984 | Jenkins, Betty S. | | | |
| | HK | 4,491,993 | 1/8/1985 | Santo | | | |
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| *EXAMINER INITIAL | | DOCUMENT NUMBER | DATE | NAME | CLASS | SUBCLASS | FILING DATE IF APPLICABLE |
| | IA | 4,557,471 | 12/10/1985 | Pazzini | | | |
| | IB | 4,607,402 | 8/26/1986 | Pollard | | | |
| | IC | 4,612,679 | 9/23/1986 | Mitchell | | | |
| | ID | 4,653,129 | 3/31/1987 | Kuck et al. | | | |
| | IE | 4,654,903 | 4/7/1987 | Chubb et al. | | | |
| | IF | 4,670,923 | 6/19/1987 | Gabriel et al. | | | |
| | IG | 4,672,698 | 6/16/1987 | Sands | | | |
| | IH | 4,675,926 | 6/30/1987 | Limdbloom et al. | | | |
| | II | 4,676,687 | 6/30/1987 | Koffler | | | |
| | IJ | 4,685,159 | 8/11/1987 | Oetiker | | | |
| | IK | 4,704,750 | 11/10/1987 | Wheelock | | | |
| FOREIGN PATENT DOCUMENTS | | | | | | | |
| | | DOCUMENT NUMBER | DATE | COUNTRY | CLASS | SUBCLASS | TRANSLATION |
| | | | | | | | YES NO |
| | IL | | | | | | |
| | IM | | | | | | |
| | IN | | | | | | |
| | IO | | | | | | |
| | IP | | | | | | |
| | IQ | | | | | | |
| OTHER REFERENCES (Including Author, Title, Date, Pertinent Pages, Etc.) | | | | | | | |
| | IR | | | | | | |
| | IS | | | | | | |
| | IT | | | | | | |
| EXAMINER | | | | DATE CONSIDERED | | | |
| *EXAMINER: Initial if reference considered, whether or not citation is in conformance with MPEP 609; Draw line through citation if not in conformance and not considered. Include copy of this form with next communication to applicant. | | | | | | | |

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| FORM PTO-1449 | | U.S. DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE | | ATTY DOCKET NO. 8266-1278 | | SERIAL NO. 10/801,184 | |
| INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT <i>(Use several sheets if necessary)</i> | | | | APPLICANT Metz et al. | | | |
| | | | | FILING DATE March 16, 2004 | | GROUP Unknown | |

| U.S. PATENT DOCUMENTS | | | | | | | |
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| *EXAMINER INITIAL | DOCUMENT NUMBER | DATE | NAME | CLASS | SUBCLASS | FILING DATE IF APPLICABLE | |
| JA | 4,710,049 | 12/10/1987 | Chang | | | | |
| JB | 4,710,992 | 12/8/1987 | Falwell et al. | | | | |
| JC | 4,745,647 | 5/24/1988 | Goodwin | | | | |
| JD | 4,747,171 | 5/31/1988 | Einsele et al. | | | | |
| JE | 4,751,754 | 6/21/1988 | Bailey et al. | | | | |
| JF | 4,757,564 | 7/19/1988 | Goodale | | | | |
| JG | 4,767,419 | 8/30/1988 | Fattore | | | | |
| JH | 4,768,249 | 9/6/1988 | Goodwin | | | | |
| JI | 4,783,864 | 11/15/1988 | Turner | | | | |
| JJ | 4,799,277 | 1/24/1989 | Goodale | | | | |
| JK | 4,800,600 | 1/31/1989 | Baum | | | | |

| FOREIGN PATENT DOCUMENTS | | | | | | | |
|--------------------------|------|---------|-------|----------|-------------|----|--|
| DOCUMENT NUMBER | DATE | COUNTRY | CLASS | SUBCLASS | TRANSLATION | | |
| | | | | | YES | NO | |
| JL | | | | | | | |
| JM | | | | | | | |
| JN | | | | | | | |
| JO | | | | | | | |
| JP | | | | | | | |
| JQ | | | | | | | |

| OTHER REFERENCES (Including Author, Title, Date, Pertinent Pages, Etc.) | | |
|---|--|--|
| JR | | |
| JS | | |
| JT | | |

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| INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT <i>(Use several sheets if necessary)</i> | | | | APPLICANT Metz et al. | | | |
| | | | | FILING DATE March 16, 2004 | | GROUP Unknown | |

| U.S. PATENT DOCUMENTS | | | | | | | |
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| *EXAMINER INITIAL | | DOCUMENT NUMBER | DATE | NAME | CLASS | SUBCLASS | FILING DATE IF APPLICABLE |
| | KA | 4,827,545 | 5/9/1989 | Arp | | | |
| | KB | 4,839,933 | 6/20/1989 | Plewright et al. | | | |
| | KC | 4,847,929 | 7/28/1989 | Pupovic | | | |
| | KD | 4,858,260 | 8/22/1989 | Failor et al. | | | |
| | KE | 4,862,529 | 9/5/1989 | Peck | | | |
| | KF | 4,862,530 | 9/5/1989 | Chen | | | |
| | KG | 4,872,228 | 10/10/1989 | Bishop | | | |
| | KH | 4,873,734 | 10/17/1989 | Pollard | | | |
| | KI | 4,894,876 | 1/23/1990 | Fenwick | | | |
| | KJ | 4,941,221 | 7/17/1990 | Kanzler | | | |
| | KK | 4,944,055 | 7/31/1990 | Shainfeld | | | |

| FOREIGN PATENT DOCUMENTS | | | | | | | | |
|--------------------------|----|-----------------|------|---------|-------|----------|-------------|----|
| | | DOCUMENT NUMBER | DATE | COUNTRY | CLASS | SUBCLASS | TRANSLATION | |
| | | | | | | | YES | NO |
| | KL | | | | | | | |
| | KM | | | | | | | |
| | KN | | | | | | | |
| | KO | | | | | | | |
| | KP | | | | | | | |
| | KQ | | | | | | | |

| OTHER REFERENCES (Including Author, Title, Date, Pertinent Pages, Etc.) | | |
|---|----|--|
| | KR | |
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| | KS | |
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| | KT | |
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| INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT <i>(Use several sheets if necessary)</i> | | | | APPLICANT Metz et al. | | | |
| | | | | FILING DATE March 16, 2004 | | GROUP Unknown | |

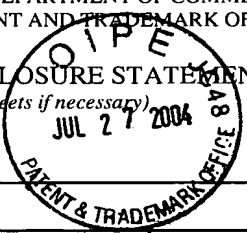
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| *EXAMINER INITIAL | DOCUMENT NUMBER | DATE | NAME | CLASS | SUBCLASS | FILING DATE IF APPLICABLE | |
| LA | 4,974,905 | 12/4/1990 | Davis | | | | |
| LB | 4,985,946 | 1/22/1991 | Foster et. al. | | | | |
| LC | 4,991,244 | 2/12/1991 | Bishop | | | | |
| LD | 4,993,089 | 2/19/1991 | Solomon et al. | | | | |
| LE | 4,998,310 | 3/12/1991 | Olson | | | | |
| LF | 5,010,611 | 4/30/1991 | Mallett | | | | |
| LG | 5,035,014 | 7/30/1991 | Blanchard, Frederick W. | | | | |
| LH | 5,040,253 | 8/20/1991 | Cheng | | | | |
| LI | 5,044,025 | 9/3/1991 | Hunsinger et al. | | | | |
| LJ | 5,060,327 | 10/29/1991 | Celestina et al. | | | | |
| LK | 5,072,463 | 12/17/1991 | Willis | | | | |

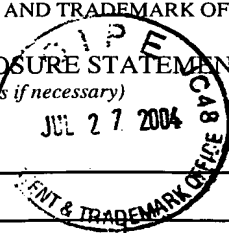
| FOREIGN PATENT DOCUMENTS | | | | | | | |
|--------------------------|------|---------|-------|----------|-------------|----|--|
| DOCUMENT NUMBER | DATE | COUNTRY | CLASS | SUBCLASS | TRANSLATION | | |
| | | | | | YES | NO | |
| LL | | | | | | | |
| LM | | | | | | | |
| LN | | | | | | | |
| LO | | | | | | | |
| LP | | | | | | | |
| LQ | | | | | | | |

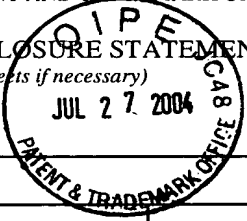
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| LR | | |
| LS | | |
| LT | | |

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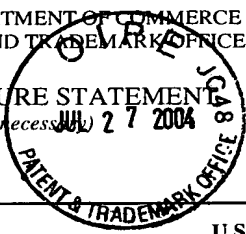
*EXAMINER: Initial if reference considered, whether or not citation is in conformance with MPEP 609; Draw line through citation if not in conformance and not considered. Include copy of this form with next communication to applicant.

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| INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT <i>(Use several sheets if necessary)</i> | | | | APPLICANT Metz et al. | | | |
|  | | | | FILING DATE March 16, 2004 | | GROUP Unknown | |
| U.S. PATENT DOCUMENTS | | | | | | | |
| *EXAMINER INITIAL | DOCUMENT NUMBER | DATE | NAME | CLASS | SUBCLASS | FILING DATE IF APPLICABLE | |
| | MA | 5,077,843 | 1/7/1992 | Foster et al. | | | |
| | MB | 5,083,332 | 1/28/1992 | Foster et al. | | | |
| | MC | 5,083,334 | 1/28/1992 | Huck et al. | | | |
| | MD | 5,084,925 | 2/4/1992 | Cook | | | |
| | ME | 5,097,550 | 3/24/1992 | Marra, Jr. | | | |
| | MF | 5,111,542 | 5/12/1992 | Farley | | | |
| | MG | 5,129,117 | 7/14/1992 | Celestina et al. | | | |
| | MH | 5,175,897 | 6/5/1993 | Marra, Jr. | | | |
| | MI | 5,179,744 | 1/19/1993 | Foster et al. | | | |
| | MJ | 5,191,663 | 3/9/1993 | Holder et al. | | | |
| | MK | 5,193,633 | 3/16/1993 | Ezenwa | | | |
| FOREIGN PATENT DOCUMENTS | | | | | | | |
| | DOCUMENT NUMBER | DATE | COUNTRY | CLASS | SUBCLASS | TRANSLATION | |
| | | | | | | YES | NO |
| | ML | | | | | | |
| | MM | | | | | | |
| | MN | | | | | | |
| | MO | | | | | | |
| | MP | | | | | | |
| | MQ | | | | | | |
| OTHER REFERENCES (Including Author, Title, Date, Pertinent Pages, Etc.) | | | | | | | |
| | MR | | | | | | |
| | MS | | | | | | |
| | MT | | | | | | |
| EXAMINER | | | | DATE CONSIDERED | | | |
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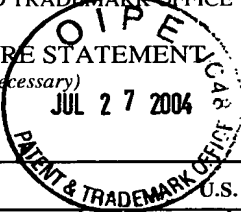
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| FORM PTO-1449 | | U.S. DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE | | ATTY DOCKET NO. 8266-1278 | | SERIAL NO. 10/801,184 | |
| INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT <i>(Use several sheets if necessary)</i> | | | | APPLICANT Metz et al. | | | |
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| U.S. PATENT DOCUMENTS | | | | | | | |
| *EXAMINER INITIAL | | DOCUMENT NUMBER | DATE | NAME | CLASS | SUBCLASS | FILING DATE IF APPLICABLE |
| | NA | 5,197,156 | 3/30/1993 | Stryker et al. | | | |
| | NB | 5,205,004 | 4/27/1993 | Hayes et al. | | | |
| | NC | 5,216,768 | 6/8/1993 | Bodine et al. | | | |
| | ND | 5,230,113 | 7/27/1993 | Foster et al. | | | |
| | NE | 5,279,010 | 1/18/1994 | Ferrand et al. | | | |
| | NF | 5,365,623 | 11/22/1994 | Springer | | | |
| | NG | 5,381,571 | 1/17/1995 | Gabhart | | | |
| | NH | 5,384,927 | 1/31/1995 | Mardero et al. | | | |
| | NI | 5,408,710 | 4/25/1995 | Garman et al. | | | |
| | NJ | 5,410,765 | 5/2/1995 | Dicken | | | |
| | NK | 5,418,988 | 5/30/1995 | Iura | | | |
| FOREIGN PATENT DOCUMENTS | | | | | | | |
| | | DOCUMENT NUMBER | DATE | COUNTRY | CLASS | SUBCLASS | TRANSLATION |
| | | | | | | | YES NO |
| | NL | | | | | | |
| | NM | | | | | | |
| | NN | | | | | | |
| | NO | | | | | | |
| | NP | | | | | | |
| | NQ | | | | | | |
| OTHER REFERENCES (Including Author, Title, Date, Pertinent Pages, Etc.) | | | | | | | |
| | NR | | | | | | |
| | NS | | | | | | |
| | NT | | | | | | |
| EXAMINER | | | | DATE CONSIDERED | | | |
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| INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT <i>(Use several sheets if necessary)</i> | | | | APPLICANT Metz et al. | | | | |
|  | | | | FILING DATE March 16, 2004 | | GROUP Unknown | | |
| U.S. PATENT DOCUMENTS | | | | | | | | |
| *EXAMINER INITIAL | | DOCUMENT NUMBER | DATE | NAME | CLASS | SUBCLASS | FILING DATE IF APPLICABLE | |
| | OA | 5,421,046 | 6/6/1995 | Vande Streek | | | | |
| | OB | 5,450,641 | 9/19/1995 | Montgomery | | | | |
| | OC | 5,454,126 | 10/3/1995 | Foster et al. | | | | |
| | OD | 5,455,973 | 10/10/1995 | Brumfield et al. | | | | |
| | OE | 5,479,666 | 1/2/1996 | Foster et al. | | | | |
| | OF | 5,481,772 | 1/19/1996 | Glynn et al. | | | | |
| | OG | 5,485,699 | 1/23/1996 | Gabhart, | | | | |
| | OH | 5,524,306 | 6/11/1996 | George | | | | |
| | OI | 5,530,974 | 7/2/1996 | Rains et al. | | | | |
| | OJ | 5,537,699 | 7/23/1996 | Bonaddio et al. | | | | |
| | OK | 5,537,701 | 7/23/1996 | Elliot | | | | |
| FOREIGN PATENT DOCUMENTS | | | | | | | | |
| | | DOCUMENT NUMBER | DATE | COUNTRY | CLASS | SUBCLASS | TRANSLATION | |
| | | | | | | | YES | NO |
| | OL | | | | | | | |
| | OM | | | | | | | |
| | ON | | | | | | | |
| | OO | | | | | | | |
| | OP | | | | | | | |
| | OQ | | | | | | | |
| OTHER REFERENCES (Including Author, Title, Date, Pertinent Pages, Etc.) | | | | | | | | |
| | OR | | | | | | | |
| | | | | | | | | |
| | OS | | | | | | | |
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| JUL 27 2004 U.S. PATENT & TRADEMARK OFFICE | | | | FILING DATE March 16, 2004 | | GROUP Unknown | | |
| U.S. PATENT DOCUMENTS | | | | | | | | |
| *EXAMINER INITIAL | PA | DOCUMENT NUMBER | DATE | NAME | CLASS | SUBCLASS | FILING DATE IF APPLICABLE | |
| | PA | 5,542,135 | 8/6/1996 | Ozrovitz, et al. | | | | |
| | PB | 5,557,813 | 9/27/1996 | Steed et al. | | | | |
| | PC | 5,557,817 | 9/24/1996 | Haddock | | | | |
| | PD | 5,575,025 | 11/19/1996 | Peters | | | | |
| | PE | 5,577,277 | 11/16/1996 | Sundberg et al. | | | | |
| | PF | 5,577,279 | 11/26/1996 | Foster et al. | | | | |
| | PG | 5,636,397 | 6/10/1997 | Boyd et al. | | | | |
| | PH | 5,642,545 | 7/1/1997 | Howard | | | | |
| | PI | 5,642,546 | 7/1/1997 | Shoenhair | | | | |
| | PJ | 5,671,490 | 9/30/1997 | Wu | | | | |
| | PK | 5,678,267 | 10/21/1997 | Kinder | | | | |
| FOREIGN PATENT DOCUMENTS | | | | | | | | |
| | | DOCUMENT NUMBER | DATE | COUNTRY | CLASS | SUBCLASS | TRANSLATION | |
| | | | | | | | YES | NO |
| | PL | | | | | | | |
| | PM | | | | | | | |
| | PN | | | | | | | |
| | PO | | | | | | | |
| | PP | | | | | | | |
| | PQ | | | | | | | |
| OTHER REFERENCES (Including Author, Title, Date, Pertinent Pages, Etc.) | | | | | | | | |
| | PR | | | | | | | |
| | PS | | | | | | | |
| | PT | | | | | | | |
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|  | | | | FILING DATE March 16, 2004 | | GROUP Unknown | | |
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| *EXAMINER INITIAL | | DOCUMENT NUMBER | DATE | NAME | CLASS | SUBCLASS | FILING DATE IF APPLICABLE | |
| | QA | 5,689,839 | 11/25/1997 | Langanieri et al. | | | | |
| | QB | 5,699,570 | 12/23/1997 | Wilkinson et al. | | | | |
| | QC | 5,701,623 | 12/30/1997 | May | | | | |
| | QD | 5,704,085 | 1/6/1998 | Sabalaskey | | | | |
| | QE | 5,715,548 | 2/10/1998 | Weismiller et al. | | | | |
| | QF | 5,732,423 | 3/31/1998 | Weismiller et al. | | | | |
| | QG | 5,745,937 | 5/5/1998 | Weismiller et al. | | | | |
| | QH | 5,745,939 | 5/5/1998 | Flick et al. | | | | |
| | QI | 5,749,112 | 5/12/1998 | Metzler | | | | |
| | QJ | 5,761,756 | 6/9/1998 | Nowak et al. | | | | |
| | QK | 5,771,506 | 6/30/1998 | Joiner et al. | | | | |
| FOREIGN PATENT DOCUMENTS | | | | | | | | |
| | | DOCUMENT NUMBER | DATE | COUNTRY | CLASS | SUBCLASS | TRANSLATION | |
| | | | | | | | YES | NO |
| | QL | | | | | | | |
| | QM | | | | | | | |
| | QN | | | | | | | |
| | QO | | | | | | | |
| | QP | | | | | | | |
| | QQ | | | | | | | |
| OTHER REFERENCES (Including Author, Title, Date, Pertinent Pages, Etc.) | | | | | | | | |
| | QR | | | | | | | |
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| | QS | | | | | | | |
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| | QT | | | | | | | |
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| INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT <i>(Use several sheets if necessary)</i> | | | | APPLICANT Metz et al. | | | |
| | | | | FILING DATE March 16, 2004 | | GROUP Unknown | |




| U.S. PATENT DOCUMENTS | | | | | | | |
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| *EXAMINER INITIAL | | DOCUMENT NUMBER | DATE | NAME | CLASS | SUBCLASS | FILING DATE IF APPLICABLE |
| | RA | 5,781,945 | 7/21/1998 | Scherer et al. | | | |
| | RB | 5,787,532 | 8/4/1998 | Langer et al. | | | |
| | RC | 5,794,288 | 8/18/1998 | Soltani et al. | | | |
| | RD | 5,802,636 | 9/8/1998 | Corbin et al. | | | |
| | RE | 5,802,646 | 9/8/1998 | Stolpmann et al. | | | |
| | RF | 5,832,549 | 11/10/1998 | Le Pallec et al. | | | |
| | RG | 5,864,900 | 2/2/1999 | Landau | | | |
| | RH | 5,878,452 | 3/9/1999 | Brooke et al. | | | |
| | RI | 5,910,080 | 6/8/1999 | Selton | | | |
| | RJ | 5,926,873 | 7/27/1999 | Fountain | | | |
| | RK | 5,956,787 | 8/28/1999 | James et al. | | | |

| FOREIGN PATENT DOCUMENTS | | | | | | | | |
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| | | DOCUMENT NUMBER | DATE | COUNTRY | CLASS | SUBCLASS | TRANSLATION | |
| | | | | | | | YES | NO |
| | RL | | | | | | | |
| | RM | | | | | | | |
| | RN | | | | | | | |
| | RO | | | | | | | |
| | RP | | | | | | | |
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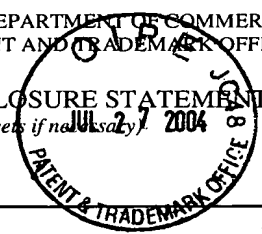
| OTHER REFERENCES (Including Author, Title, Date, Pertinent Pages, Etc.) | | |
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| EXAMINER | DATE CONSIDERED |
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| FORM PTO-1449 | | U.S. DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE | | ATTY DOCKET NO. 8266-1278 | | SERIAL NO. 10/801,184 | | |
|--|----|--|------------|-------------------------------|-----------------|--------------------------|------------------------------|----|
| INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT <i>(Use several sheets if necessary)</i> | | | | APPLICANT Metz et al. | | | | |
|  | | | | FILING DATE March 16, 2004 | | GROUP Unknown | | |
| U.S. PATENT DOCUMENTS | | | | | | | | |
| *EXAMINER INITIAL | SA | DOCUMENT NUMBER | DATE | NAME | CLASS | SUBCLASS | FILING DATE IF APPLICABLE | |
| | SA | 5,960,497 | 10/5/1999 | Castellino et al. | | | | |
| | SB | 5,987,666 | 11/23/1999 | Zigmont, N. Darlene | | | | |
| | SC | 6,038,721 | 3/21/2000 | Gordon | | | | |
| | SD | 6,058,531 | 5/9/2000 | Carroll | | | | |
| | SE | 6,081,950 | 7/4/2000 | Selton | | | | |
| | SF | 6,085,372 | 7/11/2000 | James et al. | | | | |
| | SG | 6,089,593 | 7/18/2000 | Hanson et al. | | | | |
| | SH | 6,223,369 | 5/1/2001 | Maier et al. | | | | |
| | SI | 6,223,370 | 5/1/2001 | Kluft | | | | |
| | SJ | 6,249,924 | 6/24/2001 | Kluft | | | | |
| | SK | 6,256,822 | 7/10/2001 | Weston et al. | | | | |
| FOREIGN PATENT DOCUMENTS | | | | | | | | |
| | | DOCUMENT NUMBER | DATE | COUNTRY | CLASS | SUBCLASS | TRANSLATION | |
| | | | | | | | YES | NO |
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| OTHER REFERENCES (Including Author, Title, Date, Pertinent Pages, Etc.) | | | | | | | | |
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| FORM PTO-1449 | | U.S. DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE | | ATTY DOCKET NO. 8266-1278 | | SERIAL NO. 10/801,184 | |
| INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT <i>(Use several sheets if necessary)</i> | | | | APPLICANT Metz et al. | | | |
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| U.S. PATENT DOCUMENTS | | | | | | | |
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| *EXAMINER INITIAL | | DOCUMENT NUMBER | DATE | NAME | CLASS | SUBCLASS | FILING DATE IF APPLICABLE |
| | TA | 6,347,422 | 2/19/2002 | Heavrin | | | |
| | TB | 6,363,552 | 4/2/2002 | Hornbach et al. | | | |
| | TC | 6,374,440 | 4/23/2002 | Thim, Jr. | | | |
| | TD | 6,397,416 | 6/4/2002 | Brooke et al. | | | |
| | TE | 6,401,277 | 6/11/2002 | Savage et al. | | | |
| | TF | 6,401,281 | 6/11/2002 | Younge | | | |
| | TG | 6,427,264 | 8/6/2002 | Metz et. al. | | | |
| | TH | 6,430,766 | 8/13/2002 | Henley et al. | | | |
| | TI | 6,615,426 | 9/9/2003 | Risk, Jr. | | | |
| | TJ | 6,629,326 | 10/7/2003 | Risk, Jr. | | | |
| | TK | 6,668,399 | 12/30/2003 | Malstaff et al. | | | |

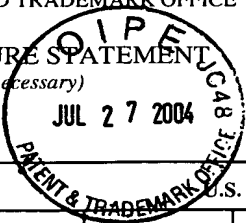
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| OTHER REFERENCES (Including Author, Title, Date, Pertinent Pages, Etc.) | | |
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| INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT <i>(Use several sheets if necessary)</i> | | | | APPLICANT Metz et al. | | | |
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| U.S. PATENT DOCUMENTS | | | | | | | |
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| *EXAMINER INITIAL | | DOCUMENT NUMBER | DATE | NAME | CLASS | SUBCLASS | FILING DATE IF APPLICABLE |
| | UA | 6,721,975 | 4/20/2004 | Lemine | | | |
| | UB | 2001/0044970 | 11/29/2001 | Heavrin | | | |
| | UC | 2002/0170113 | 11/21/2002 | Metz et al. | | | |
| | UD | D276,112 | 10/30/1984 | Ferrell et al. | | | |
| | UE | D336,577 | 6/22/1993 | Celestina et al. | | | |
| | UF | | | | | | |
| | UG | | | | | | |
| | UH | | | | | | |
| | UI | | | | | | |
| | UJ | | | | | | |
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